

TOBACCO

A strong market for the 1997 **broadleaf tobacco** crop encouraged Connecticut Valley growers to plant more acreage in 1998. Broadleaf farmers in Connecticut and Massachusetts harvested 2,360 acres in 1998, an increase of 320 acres over the previous year's disease-reduced harvested acreage. Less than optimum growing conditions during 1998 limited broadleaf production harvested and sold to 3.6 million pounds, fractionally below a year earlier. Warm, dry conditions allowed growers to set out transplants from one to two weeks early in the spring. Heavy June rains followed, which brought flooding and interrupted spraying for disease control. Hail storms were isolated, but ruinous. Many acres that were planted could not be harvested due the severity of damage from the fungal disease, blue mold and/or hail. Yields averaged 1,539 lbs/acre in 1998, well below 1997's 1,783 yield and the previous five-year average of 1,849 pounds per acre. Growers received an average of \$5.50 per pound for broadleaf tobacco in

1998, however the range in prices varied from 5 cents to \$8.00 per pound depending on quality. Value of broadleaf production was placed at \$20 million, 25 percent below the 1997 crop's record high value.

Shade tobacco production in Connecticut and Massachusetts totaled 2.4 million pounds in 1998, 1 percent above the previous year due to increased acreage which more than offset slightly reduced yields. Growers reported extreme variability in yields for the 1998 crop due to the damage caused by blue mold and/or hail. Shade yields averaged 1,413 pounds per acre in the two states, 18 fewer pounds per acre than the previous year. To avoid disclosure due to a limited number of operations, value of production is no longer available for shade tobacco.

[Tobacco charts appear after oat statistics.]

TOBACCO: Acreage, Yield, Production and Value ^{1/}, 1989 - 1998

STATE & YEAR	Broadleaf Tobacco (Type 51)					Shade Tobacco (Type 61)					All Tobacco			
	Area Hvstd	Yield per Acre	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Area Hvstd	Yield per Acre	Production	Price per Pound	Value of Production	Area Hvstd	Yield per Acre	Production	Value of Production
	Acres	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	Acres	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	Dollars	1,000 Dollars	Acres	Pounds	1,000 Pounds	1,000 Dollars
Connecticut														
1989	630	1,700	1,071	1.80	1,928	1,100	1,565	1,722	21.70	37,367	1,730	1,614	2,793	39,295
1990	570	1,700	969	2.50	2,423	1,250	1,630	2,038	21.00	42,798	1,820	1,652	3,007	45,221
1991	670	1,750	1,173	2.60	3,050	1,080	1,535	1,658	16.30	27,025	1,750	1,618	2,831	30,075
1992	650	1,790	1,164	2.80	3,259	720	1,520	1,094	17.00	18,598	1,370	1,648	2,258	21,857
1993	695	1,870	1,300	3.00	3,900	850	1,450	1,233	17.00	20,961	1,545	1,639	2,533	24,861
1994	745	1,890	1,408	3.05	4,294	910	1,400	1,274	--	--	1,655	1,621	2,682	--
1995	1,000	1,980	1,980	3.85	7,623	990	1,560	1,544	--	--	1,990	1,771	3,524	--
1996	1,220	1,840	2,245	6.20	13,919	1,040	1,490	1,550	--	--	2,260	1,679	3,795	--
1997	1,315	1,760	2,314	6.00	13,884	1,230	1,475	1,814	--	--	2,545	1,622	4,128	--
1998	1,435	1,600	2,296	5.40	12,398	1,380	1,435	1,980	--	--	2,815	1,519	4,276	--
Massachusetts														
1989	100	1,850	185	1.80	333	380	1,475	561	21.70	12,174	480	1,554	746	12,507
1990	90	2,120	191	2.50	478	380	1,615	614	21.00	12,894	470	1,713	805	13,372
1991	130	2,000	260	2.60	676	370	1,540	570	16.30	9,291	500	1,660	830	9,967
1992	170	1,880	320	2.80	896	300	1,400	420	17.00	7,140	470	1,574	740	8,036
1993	190	2,075	394	3.00	1,182	230	1,495	344	17.00	5,848	420	1,757	738	7,030
1994	210	1,905	400	3.10	1,240	280	1,400	392	--	--	490	1,616	792	--
1995	240	1,920	461	4.05	1,867	275	1,660	457	--	--	515	1,783	918	--
1996	410	1,600	656	6.55	4,297	390	1,425	556	--	--	800	1,515	1,212	--
1997	725	1,825	1,323	9.50	12,569	450	1,310	590	--	--	1,175	1,628	1,913	--
1998	925	1,445	1,337	5.67	7,581	340	1,325	451	--	--	1,265	1,413	1,788	--
New England ^{2/}														
1989	730	1,721	1,256	1.80	2,261	1,480	1,543	2,283	21.70	49,541	2,210	1,601	3,539	51,802
1990	660	1,758	1,160	2.50	2,901	1,630	1,627	2,652	21.00	55,692	2,290	1,665	3,812	58,593
1991	800	1,791	1,433	2.60	3,726	1,450	1,537	2,228	16.30	36,316	2,250	1,627	3,661	40,042
1992	820	1,810	1,484	2.80	4,155	1,020	1,484	1,514	17.00	25,738	1,840	1,629	2,998	29,893
1993	885	1,914	1,694	3.00	5,082	1,080	1,460	1,577	17.00	26,809	1,965	1,665	3,271	31,891
1994	955	1,893	1,808	3.06	5,534	1,190	1,400	1,666	--	--	2,145	1,620	3,474	--
1995	1,240	1,969	2,441	3.89	9,490	1,265	1,582	2,001	--	--	2,505	1,773	4,442	--
1996	1,630	1,780	2,901	6.28	18,216	1,430	1,473	2,106	--	--	3,060	1,636	5,007	--
1997	2,040	1,783	3,637	7.27	26,453	1,680	1,431	2,404	--	--	3,720	1,624	6,041	--
1998	2,360	1,539	3,633	5.50	19,979	1,720	1,413	2,431	--	--	4,080	1,486	6,064	--

^{1/} Starting in 1994, CT and MA Shade type 61 price and value of production not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

^{2/} New England includes CT, MA.